

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A process for producing an information carrier, intended to be handled relatively frequently and selected from the group consisting of a banknote, a passport, a playing card, a chipcard, a packaging, a book, and a magazine, comprising the step of:

incorporating at least two biocidal agents into a basic carrier made of at least one material selected from cellulosic and plastic materials;

wherein at least a first biocidal agent is selected from the group consisting of bacteriostatic and bactericidal agents, and at least a second biocidal agent is selected from the group consisting of fungistatic and fungicidal agents; and

wherein the incorporation of said biocidal agents is carried out by surfacing said basic carrier with a solution containing said biocidal agents.

29. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the first biocidal agent is selected from compounds based on the group consisting of chitosan, chitin derivatives, quaternary ammonium, zinc zeolite, silver ions and triclosan.

30. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the first biocidal agent is based on didecyltrimethylammonium chloride.

31. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the second biocidal agent is selected from the group consisting of the compounds based on isothiazolin or isothiazolone derivatives.

32. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the second biocidal agent is based on p-[(diiodomethyl)sulfonyl]toluol in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

33. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the second biocidal agent is based on iodopropynyl butyl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

34. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the second biocidal agent is based on methyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

35. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the quantity by dry weight of biocidal agent in the carrier is less than 1%.

36. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the basic carrier is based on cellulosic materials.

37. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the basic carrier is based on plastic materials.

38. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the incorporation of said biocidal agents is also carried out by immersing said basic carrier in a solution of said biocidal agents.

39. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the incorporation of said biocidal agents is also carried out by spraying said basic carrier with a solution of said biocidal agents.

40. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the incorporation of said biocidal agents is also carried out by printing said basic carrier using an ink containing said biocidal agents.

41. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the incorporation of said biocidal agents is also carried out by surfacing said basic carrier with a solution containing said biocidal agents and an aqueous surfacing agent, wherein the aqueous surfacing agent includes glycerol as a plasticizer.

42. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the incorporation of said biocidal agents is also carried out by coating said basic carrier with a coating solution containing said biocidal agents.

43. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the incorporation of said biocidal agents is also carried out by depositing onto said basic carrier an overprint varnish containing said biocidal agents.

44. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the incorporation of said biocidal agents is also carried out by coating microcapsules or cyclodextrin containing said biocidal agents onto said basic carrier.

45. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein said first biocidal agent is a bactericidal agent and said second biocidal agent is a fungicidal agent.

46. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein said first biocidal agent is based on didecyltrimethylammonium chloride and said second biocidal agent is based on p-[(diiodomethyl)sulfonyl]toluol in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

47. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein said first biocidal agent is based on didecyltrimethylammonium chloride and said second biocidal agent is based on iodopropynyl butyl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

48. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein said first biocidal agent is based on didecyltrimethylammonium chloride and said second biocidal agent is based on methyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

49. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein said first biocidal agent is based on silver ions and said second biocidal agent is based on iodopropynyl butyl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

50. (New) A method for decreasing the contamination of an information carrier, intended to be handled relatively frequently and selected from the group consisting of a banknote, a passport, a playing card, a chipcard, a packaging, a book, and a magazine, comprising the step of:

incorporating at least two biocidal agents into a basic carrier made of at least one material selected from cellulosic and plastic materials;

wherein at least a first biocidal agent is selected from the group consisting of bacteriostatic and bactericidal agents, and at least a second biocidal agent is selected from the group consisting of fungistatic and fungicidal agents.

51. (New) The production process of claim 28, wherein the quantity by dry weight of biocidal agent in the carrier is less than 0.2%.

52. (New) An information carrier, intended to be handled relatively frequently and selected from the group consisting of a banknote, a passport, a playing card, a chipcard, a packaging, a book, and a magazine, said information carrier containing at least two biocidal agents, at least a first biocidal agent being selected from the group consisting of bacteriostatic and bactericidal agents, and at least a second biocidal agent being selected from the group consisting of fungistatic and fungicidal agents.

53. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the first biocidal agent is selected from compounds based on the group consisting of chitosan, chitin derivatives, quaternary ammonium, zinc zeolite, silver ions and triclosan.

54. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the first biocidal agent is based on didecyldimethylammonium chloride.

55. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the second biocidal agent is selected from the group consisting of the compounds based on isothiazolin or isothiazolone derivatives.

56. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the second biocidal agent is based on p-[(diiodomethyl)sulfonyl]toluol in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

57. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the second biocidal agent is based on iodopropynyl butyl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

58. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the second biocidal agent is based on methyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

59. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the quantity by dry weight of biocidal agent in the carrier is less than 1%.

60. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the information carrier is based on cellulosic materials.

61. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the information carrier is based on plastic materials.

62. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein said first biocidal agent is a bactericidal agent and said second biocidal agent is a fungicidal agent.

63. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein said first biocidal agent is based on didecyldimethylammonium chloride and said second biocidal agent is based on p-[(diiodomethyl)sulfonyl]toluol in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

64. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein said first biocidal agent is based on didecyldimethylammonium chloride and said second biocidal agent is based on iodopropynyl butyl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

65. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein said first biocidal agent is based on didecyldimethylammonium chloride and said second biocidal agent is based on methyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

66. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein said first biocidal agent is based on silver ions and said second biocidal agent is based on iodopropynyl butyl carbamate in the form of an aqueous dispersion.

67. (New) The information carrier as claimed in claim 52, wherein the quantity by dry weight of biocidal agent in the carrier is less than 0.2%.